PLAS - O - GRAM <98-19> SmartPLAS Charging Rules

PLAS Associates,

If you are using PLAS version 9.0.1, you've noticed the Timecard column with green/yellow/red buttons. When trying to save data, you might have seen *'The selected combination of process, program and contract kind/unit cost pool is not allowed.'* (red button) or *'Warning… the selected combination of (Process) and (Program) is unusual.'* (yellow button). Some of the following questions probably crossed your mind.

How can I see the current SmartPLAS rules?
The accompanying Word 97 file, plasrule.doc, displays the current SmartPLAS process-program-contract kind/unit cost pool-reimbursable/non-reimbursable charging combinations.   As these rules are fine tuned, the listing of SmartPLAS rules posted on the Downloads page of the PLAS website (www.plas.dcmdc.dla.mil), will be updated.

How were these SmartPLAS rules set?
We tapped the best CAS talent possible within the available timeframes to help us draft rules and get SmartPLAS up and running. This talent included ACOs, CAO Deputies, Performance Plan personnel, Unit Cost team members, PLAS administrators and PLAS PMC workers. Please appreciate that with over 100,000 possible process-program-contract kind/unit cost pool-reimbursable/non-reimbursable charging combinations, it was impossible to formally coordinate each rule with every DCMC HQ process owner. So we fully expect to refine these rules as we hear from you folks. Indeed several changes have already been made.

How can I request a change in the SmartPLAS rules?
We recommend that all PLAS rules questions be submitted through the local PLAS Administrators. This alerts the PLAS Admins to concerns and permits them to consolidate duplicate requests. Send all questions/ requests for changes to the PLAS Helpline via the telephone or e-mail addresses shown below.

Requests for changes will be closely scrutinized. This is NOT because the current rules are inviolate. SmartPLAS' primary strength is its ability to build some data integrity/charging uniformity directly into the data entry process. We don't want unrealistic, overly restrictive rules. However, the more charging combinations that migrate from red to yellow to green, SmartPLAS becomes MediocrePLAS.

Please give this info the widest possible dissemination at your organization. Questions? Contact us at 1-888-PLASINFO or PLASHELP@mwest.dcmdc.dla.mil.

Respectfully,

Don Peterson
PLAS Program Manager